

Application No.: 10/659,133
Amendment dated: July 24, 2006
Reply to Final Office Action dated: May 23, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-11, 13, 18 and 20 are pending in the application. Claims 2-11, 13, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebrahim et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,644,753 (hereinafter "Ebrahim") in view of Arimilli et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,867,511 (hereinafter "Arimilli").

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2-11,13,18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ebrahim in view of Arimilli. Independent claim 2 of the present application includes the following limitation:

wherein access to the partitioned elements by said first and second components is controlled based on said first mask value.

Examiner asserts that this element of applicants' claimed invention is taught by column 2, lines 8 to 58 of Arimilli, but Arimilli only mentions using either a "least recently used" (LRU) or pseudo-LRU method of eviction. *See* Arimilli, column 2, lines 43-46. It does not teach controlling access based on a mask value. Similarly, the description associated with figure 3, only describes an LRU eviction method. An LRU method of evicting cache data is based on the theory that infrequently used data should be evicted rather than frequently used data. It does not involve controlling the multiple components' access to a resource. Arimilli, therefore, does not teach the element of applicants' claimed invention that Examiner asserts it does.

Additionally, independent claim 2 contains the following element:

an access controller coupled to said resource and said at least first and second

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components to store a first mask value

Examiner asserts that this element is taught by Ebrahim. In particular, Examiner points to the UPANUM field (182), which is described as “a 5-bit mask field that specifies the maximum number of UPA ports the System Controller can support.” See Ebrahim, column 22, lines 8-10. Examiner asserts that 102-1 through 102-n of Ebrahim teach the first and second components of Applicants’ claim, but it does not teach that these elements store the UPANUM field. In fact, the only description associated with the UPANUM field is what Applicants have quoted. It is not clear where the 5-bit value stored in the UPANUM field comes from, or what exactly it does. Examiner has also not explained how specifying a maximum number of UPA ports teaches controlling a component’s access to a partitioned resource. The UPANUM field appears to represent nothing more than a system parameter.

The Ebrahim reference, therefore, does not teach “access to the partitioned elements by said first and second components is controlled based on said first mask value,” and it also does not teach that “said at least first and second components to store a first mask value.” Accordingly, applicants assert that Ebrahim in combination with Arimilli does not render applicants’ claimed invention obvious.

In view of the arguments above, applicants assert that independent claim 2 is allowable in its present form. Independent claims 4, 11, and 18 contain similar limitations to those discussed above in relation to independent claim 2, and are likewise allowable. Dependent claims 3, 5-10, 13, and 20 are allowable as depending from allowable independent claims. Therefore, applicants

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respectfully request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

It is believed that this Amendment places the application in condition for allowance, and early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

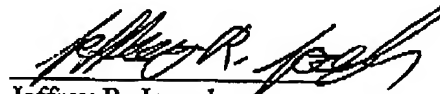
The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON LLP

Dated: July 24, 2006

By:



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